

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for controlling a commercial environment, said commercial environment comprising a plurality of traders, each of said traders included in at least one of a plurality of members, wherein said plurality of members are included in at least one of a plurality of communities, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing an on-going on-line business to business exchange with rules governing transactions between the plurality of communities, members and traders in a structured environment;

dynamically defining which of said plurality of members in the business to business exchange are included in at least one of said communities to flexibly control transactions in the on-line business to business exchange;

dynamically defining which of said plurality of traders in the business to business exchange are included in which of said plurality of members to flexibly control transactions in between said plurality of members, and

allowing at least one of said traders to authorize at least one of

- a) interaction between a first of said traders and a second of said traders, and
- b) interaction between a first of said member and a second of said members.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

designating at least one of said communities in which said first and second of said traders are allowed to interact, wherein interaction between said first and second of said traders is prohibited unless said first and second of said traders belong to said designated community.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein ones of said members are included in more than one of said communities.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

allowing said ones of said traders to authorize interaction between any of said traders and ones of said members.

5-39 (Withdrawn)

Please add new claims 40-41 as follows:

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40. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning a sponsor to each of the plurality of communities, wherein the sponsor organizes, selectively maintains, and selectively controls the assigned community.

41. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating dynamic individual definitions for each community, member and trader, wherein the definitions determine the relationships between various entities and permit flexible interactions between multiple entities.
